

You can copy or move books between different libraries (once you have more than one library setup) by right clicking on a book and selecting the *Copy to library* action.

9.3.2 How does calibre manage author names and sorting?

Author names are complex, especially across cultures, see [this note](#)⁵⁹ for some of the complexities. calibre has a very flexible strategy for managing author names. The first thing to understand is that books and authors are separate entities in calibre. A book can have more than one author, and an author can have more than one book. You can manage the authors of a book by the edit metadata dialog. You can manage individual authors by right clicking on the author in the Tag browser on the left of the main calibre screen and selecting *Manage authors*. Using this dialog you can change the name of an author and also how that name is sorted. This will automatically change the name of the author in all the books of that author. When a book has multiple authors, separate their names using the & character.

Now coming to author name sorting:

- When a new author is added to calibre (this happens whenever a book by a new author is added), calibre automatically computes a sort string for both the book and the author.
- Authors in the Tag browser are sorted by the sort value for the **authors**. Remember that this is different from the Author sort field for a book.
- By default, this sort algorithm assumes that the author name is in `First name Last name` format and generates a `Last name, First name` sort value.
- You can change this algorithm by going to *Preferences*→*Advanced*→*Tweaks* and setting the `author_sort_copy_method` tweak.
- You can force calibre to recalculate the author sort values for every author by right clicking on any author and selecting *Manage authors*, then pushing the *Recalculate all author sort values* button. Do this after you have set the `author_sort_copy_method` tweak to what you want.
- You can force calibre to recalculate the author sort values for all books by using the bulk metadata edit dialog (select all books and click edit metadata, check the *Automatically set author sort* checkbox, then press OK.)
- When recalculating the author sort values for books, calibre uses the author sort values for each individual author. Therefore, ensure that the individual author sort values are correct before recalculating the books' author sort values.
- You can control whether the Tag browser display authors using their names or their sort values by setting the `categories_use_field_for_author_name` tweak in *Preferences*→*Advanced*→*Tweaks*

Note that you can set an individual author's sort value to whatever you want using *Manage authors*. This is useful when dealing with names that calibre will not get right, such as complex multi-part names like Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra or when dealing with Asian names like Sun Tzu.

With all this flexibility, it is possible to have calibre manage your author names however you like. For example, one common req

- Set the `author_sort_copy_method` tweak to `copy` as described above.
- Restart calibre. Do not change any book metadata before doing the remaining steps.
- Change all author names to LN, FN using the *Manage authors* dialog.
- After you have changed all the authors, press the *Recalculate all author sort values* button.
- Press OK, at which point calibre will change the authors in all your books. This can take a while.

Note:

⁵⁹ <https://www.w3.org/International/questions/qa-personal-names.en.php?changelang=en>